Number of persons arrested in drug cases

Year	Persons
2000-2001	15796
2001-2002	17631
2002-2003 [Upto January]	9095

Reduction in interest rates on deposits

47. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and other nationalized banks have lately been considering further reduction in interest rates on deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Interest rates on all term deposits have been deregulated since October 1997. Banks are free to offer interest rates on all term deposits at fixed or floating rates subject to approval of their Boards. Therefore, interest rates on term deposits may change from time to time depending upon the decisions of their Boards.

Regulatory authority for cooperative banks

48. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested setting up of a separate regulatory authority for the co-operative banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken together with its present status; and

(c) the details of views expressed by various State Governments on the proposal?